

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1368

To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. (posthumously) and his widow Coretta Scott King in recognition of their contributions to the Nation on behalf of the civil rights movement.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 27, 2003

Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. PRYOR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DODD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. MILLER, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. JEFFORDS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. (posthumously) and his widow Coretta Scott King in recognition of their contributions to the Nation on behalf of the civil rights movement.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds that—

1 (1) Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr.
2 and his widow Coretta Scott King, as the first fam-
3 ily of the civil rights movement, have distinguished
4 records of public service to the American people and
5 the international community;

6 (2) Dr. King preached a doctrine of nonviolent
7 civil disobedience to combat segregation, discrimina-
8 tion, and racial injustice;

9 (3) Dr. King led the Montgomery bus boycott
10 for 381 days to protest the arrest of Mrs. Rosa
11 Parks and the segregation of the bus system of
12 Montgomery, Alabama;

13 (4) in 1963, Dr. King led the march on Wash-
14 ington, D.C., that was followed by his famous ad-
15 dress, the “I Have a Dream” speech;

16 (5) through his work and reliance on nonviolent
17 protest, Dr. King was instrumental in the passage of
18 the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights
19 Act of 1965;

20 (6) despite efforts to derail his mission, Dr.
21 King acted on his dream of America and succeeded
22 in making the United States a better place;

23 (7) Dr. King was assassinated for his beliefs on
24 April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee;

1 (8) Mrs. King stepped into the civil rights
2 movement in 1955 during the Montgomery bus boy-
3 cott, and played an important role as a leading par-
4 ticipant in the American civil rights movement;

5 (9) while raising 4 children, Mrs. King devoted
6 herself to working alongside her husband for non-
7 violent social change and full civil rights for African
8 Americans;

9 (10) with a strong educational background in
10 music, Mrs. King established and performed several
11 Freedom Concerts, which were well received, and
12 which combined prose and poetry narration with mu-
13 sical selections to increase awareness and under-
14 standing of the Southern Christian Leadership Con-
15 ference (of which Dr. King served as the first presi-
16 dent);

17 (11) Mrs. King demonstrated composure in
18 deep sorrow, as she led the Nation in mourning her
19 husband after his brutal assassination;

20 (12) after the assassination, Mrs. King devoted
21 all of her time and energy to developing and building
22 the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King Jr. Center
23 for Nonviolent Social Change (hereafter referred to
24 as the “Center”) as an enduring memorial to her

1 husband's life and his dream of nonviolent social
2 change and full civil rights for all Americans;

3 (13) under Mrs. King's guidance and direction,
4 the Center has flourished;

5 (14) the Center was the first institution built in
6 honor of an African American leader;

7 (15) the Center provides local, national, and
8 international programs that have trained tens of
9 thousands of people in Dr. King's philosophy and
10 methods, and claims the largest archive of the civil
11 rights movement; and

12 (16) Mrs. King led the massive campaign to es-
13 tablish Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday,
14 and the holiday is now celebrated in more than 100
15 countries.

16 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

17 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is
18 authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, a gold
19 medal of appropriate design to Reverend Doctor Martin
20 Luther King, Jr. (posthumously) and his widow Coretta
21 Scott King, in recognition of their service to the Nation.

22 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the
23 presentations referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
24 of the Treasury shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-

1 blemishes, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the
2 Secretary.

3 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

4 The Secretary of the Treasury shall strike and sell
5 duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant
6 to section 2, under such regulations as the Secretary may
7 prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the
8 duplicate medals and the gold medal (including labor, ma-
9 terials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses).

10 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

11 The medals struck under this Act are national medals
12 for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

13 **SEC. 5. FUNDING AND PROCEEDS OF SALE.**

14 (a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—There is authorized to be
15 charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise
16 Fund an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to pay for the
17 cost of the medals authorized by this Act.

18 (b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the
19 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be
20 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise
21 Fund.

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